WORK TAKING SHAPE. THE SPEAK AN EXPECTATION THE WILL ANNOUNCE HIS APPOIN MENTS ON MONDAY.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] WASHINGTON, Dec. 20 .- Speaker Carlisle seemed to be rather more cheerful to-night; he feels pretty confident that he will be able to announce the committees on Monday. The action of the House in adding four new committees will be some relief to him, especially as two of the chairmanships thus created are desirable. It is hoped S. S. Cox may be persuaded to accept with some degree of cheerfulness the chairmanship of the Committee on Shipping in place of that on Foreign Affairs, provided the latter is not given to Perry Belmont. The pressure in favor of this young man has been enormous, and it has undoubtedly given the Speaker more annoyance than anything else, aside from the conflicting ambitions of Representatives

"August Belmont bas been a prominent member of the Democratic party for nearly half a century, and has given liberally of his substance to promote its interests. He is expected to contribute with even greater liberality next year. He desires no political reward for himself, but he demands this preferment for his son. Speaker Carlisle does not feel that he can well afford to refuse the demand, and yet he is extremely reluctant to make an appointment which he would regard as wholly unsuitable and one forever to be regretted. Morrison may induce him to do it, but I should say not. He may get out of the difficulty by leaving out both Belmont and Cox, and giving the chairmanship to another man-say Andrew G. Curtin, whose appointment would be regarded by everybody as a fit and satisfactory one." These remarks by one of the most thoughtful and conservative Democrats in the House describe the situation

The talk of Governor Curtin for the place appears to have some foundation and the idea is said to have originated with the Speaker himselfprobably feels that the better sense of the Democratic party would appreciate his motives and commend his action, if he were to place at the head of Foreign Affairs a man like Andrew G. Curtin. There have been some rather pointed suggestions that the Speaker might find a way out of his embarrassment on account of the Cox-Belment controversy by appointing Abram S. Hewitt chairman of Naval Affairs and offering Mr. Cox the chairmanship of American Shipping.

HE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE.

This would of course, break the Speaker's "slate" for Ways and Means, but that has already been done at least a dozen times before in the last week. As it stood this afternoon it was as follows-Morrison, Blackbarn, Hurd, Hewitt, Blount, Hatch, Hancock and Herbert, Democrats, and Kelley, Kasson, Hiscock, McKiuley and Russell, Republicans, Mr. Hatch's name had been substituted for Mr. Buckner's, because the latter preferred his old place at the head of Banking and Currency. change also disposed of the conflicting claims of Messrs. Hatch and Aiken for Agriculture. Mr. Blount, instead of Mr. Hammond, of Georgia, was put down, because the latter said he preferred a place on the Judiciary Committee. He came to Washington expecting to be made chairman of the latter committee, but was offered Elections instead, which he declined.

It is still probable that Mr. Willis, instead of Mr. Blackburn, may be assigned to Ways and Means. Some of Mr. Blackburn's nearest friends say that he would prefer the charmanship of Rivers and Harbors to a place on Ways and Means.

THE KENTUCKIANS NONE TOO MODEST. The Speaker has found it extremely difficult to satisfy his Kentucky colleagues, each of whom appears to have expected nothing less than a good chairmanship or a leading place on one of the more desirable committees. When a man with such expectations is offered a rather obscure place on such a committee as Militia or Revision of the Laws, he naturally feels a good deal disgusted, and if a Kentuckian, he is apt to use some emphatic language, Mr. Mills, who is one of the most extreme free traders in Congress, was confident that he would have a place on Ways and Means and his name was out down for Congress, was confident that he would have a phase on Ways and Means and his name was put down for a once or twice, but to-night his prospects are gloomy, and it is said he is not sparring in his expressions of dissatisfacts. There is some reason to believe that we have will be made to placate him by the offer of a schairmanship of Elections.

GUESSES ABOUT CHAIRMANSHIPS. Three chairmanships, it is thought, will be given to Misso i-Banking and Currency, to Buckner; Coinage, Weights and Measures to Bland; and Labor to O'Neil, the young St. Louis Representative, who legan life as a barefooted newsboy in that city, and has worked his way up first to a seat in the Ci. Conscil, next to the State Legislature, and now into Congress. It is understood that Illinois and Indiana will also receive three charmanships each, while Kentucky will probably receive only one. There is a current rumor that Oscar Turner, of the latter State, is to be given a place on Judiciary. This seems almost incredible, but a good many Kentuckians credit it. It would be generally regarded as a preposterous appointment.

CHANGES IN HOUSE COMMITTEES.

MR. HORR'S BITING SARCASM FAILS TO SAVE THE COMMERCE COMMITTEE.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] WASHINGTON, Dec. 20 .- The proposition to narrow the jurisdiction of the House Committee on Commerce by taking away from it the subject of river and harbor improvements provoked a lively debate to-day, in which Mr. Horr led the opposi-His speech contained some neat sarcastic hits, which were better enjoyed by the Republicans than by the other side. His suggestion that the Ways and Means Committee be divided into two committees-one on Ways and the other Means-seemed to be a proper one He remarked that one of these committees might have jurisdiction of all bills designed to break down and destroy American industries and the other of all measures tending to the protection and expansion of those industries. This division would give both factions of the Democratic party representation and an opportunity to be heard. Mr. Horr's recommendation that the Foreign Affairs Committee be devided created much amusement. He advised that to one of the new committees thus formed be given exclusive jurisdiction of the Irish question, with incidental authority to look after the British Lion, while the other should attend to the lighter and less important duties relating to our affairs with the remainder of the world.

SYMPATHY FOR THE SPEAKER. In making these suggestions, Mr. Horr was inspired in part by his sympathy for the Speaker in the perplexities which beset him. He could give the chairmanship of the Committee on Irish Affairs and the British Lion to an old and distinguished Representative, whose efforts to serve his Irish constituents had attracted general attention, and he could at the same time promote to a chairmanship a Representative younger and not so distinguished, perhaps, but a man with lively and lofty ambition. Mr. Horr also thought it would be wise to divide the Judiciary Committee, and he earnestly protested against the proposition to degrade the old and respectable Commerce Committee to a level with

the most unimportant committees of the House. Mr. Reagan, of Texas, who expects to be chairman of the committee, replied. He is so anxious to push his inter-State commerce measure that he has quite lost his interest in other matters affecting commercial interests. An attempt led by Mr. Springer to give the Committees on Levees and Improvements of the Mississippi River jurisdiction of appropriations for those purposes failed dis-

The new Committee on Rivers and Harbors is to

consist of 15 members and its sole duty will be the preparation of the appropriation bills for the improvement of rivers and harbors.

Mr. Keifer spoke in favor of the resolution for a select committee on woman suffrage, and Mr. Reagan opposed it, the result being a defeat of the resolution by a vote of 88 yeas to 124 nays. A majority of the House had evidently reached the conclusion that the number of chairmanships and committee places had been increased sufficiently for one time at least.

HOW THE COMMITTEES ARE AFFECTED. The net result is four new chairmanships and sixty new places for committeemen. The new committees are: River and Harbors, fifteen members; Labor, seven members: American Shipping, eleven members; and Ventilation and Acoustics of Hall, seven members. Besides these, each following committees is increased from eleven to thirteen members: Banking and Currency, Foreign Affairs, Military Affairs, Post Offices and Post Roads, Territories, Public buildings and Grounds, Reform in the Civil Service and election of President and Vice-President. The Committee on Pensions, Bounty and Back pay is in-creased from 7 to 9 members.

EXTRA PAY TO DISCHARGED EMPLOYES.

IBY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] WASHINGTON, Dec. 20 .- A resolution offered in the House yesterday, to give one mouth's extra pay to all officers and employes of the House who were in service December 3, and who have been or who nay be discharged prior to February 1, gave rise to a lively and in some respects disagreeable debate, this afternoon. After speeches in favor of it by Messrs. Geddes and Keifer, of Ohio, an amendment was offered to except from the provisions of the resolution all employes who were appointed in the closing hours of the last Congress or subsequently and who have rendered no service save that of sign-

General Keifer had the floor when this amendment was proposed and he was visibly embarrassed. He, of course, knew that one object of the amendment was to prevent the giving of a month's extra pay to ne of the official stenographers who was appointed a few hours before the expiration of the last Congress after all the work of the session had been completed. Some allusions were made on the Demperatic side to the discharge by Doorkeeper Brownow, after the expiration of the XLVIIth Congress, of a man in his department and the appointment of another person, who, it is said, was not required to leave his Tennessee home. After discussion Mr. leave his Tennessee home. After discussion Mr. Reagan moved to commit the resolution to the Committee on Accounts, with instructions to inquire and report whether any employes of the House were discharged after the XLVIIth Congress had completed its labors and their places filled by the appointment of men who have rendered no service. On a division this motion was carried by a vote of 118 to 64.

General Keifer demanded the yeas and navs, but as only 21 Republicans joined him in the demand the rell was not called and the resolution was ordered to be sent to the committee when appointed. The proposed beneficiaries of the resolution received one month's extra pay last spring.

one month's extra pay last spring. THE PACIFIC BANK SCANDAL REVIVED.

CHARGES BROUGHT AGAINST THE DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS OF NEGLIGENCE. [BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Boston, Dec. 20.—The slumbering Pacific Bank -candal has been awakened into a live local sensation by the filing of a bill in the United States M. Price, sues the directors, officers, and employes, of the wrecked institution, to recover all the loss and damage which the bank has sustained by reason of the negligence, mismanagement and violation of the dutie and trusts of the directors and officers of the bank; and all by reason by the violation of the laws regulating national banking associations He alleges, as the result of his examination, that a greater part, if not all, of the loss and exha of the capital stock and other monies paid into the bank upon the voluntary assessment of the stockholders has resulted from, and been occasioned by inattention to business, negligence, mis-management and violation of duties and trusts, on the part of the directors and officers of the bank. The bill specifies these alleged acts of malfeasance and neglect at great length and with great particularity, making numerous charges of a very grave character, not making numerous charges of a very grave character, not only against Abner J. Begron, the president, who is a fugitive from Justice, but several of the directors, whom It accuses of direct completity in the ruln of the bank. Most of the facts of the case came out at the time of the collapse, and were reported in this correspondence; but the allegations of the present bill put to shame anything in the previous history of American bank wrecking. The bill gives the history of numerous lonns—some of sums as large as a million dollars made on wildcat securities to speculators, some of them prominent men—from which the Institution realizes practically nothing. Nearly every lawyer of prominence in Boston is engaged on one side or the other.

THE NIAGARA CANTILEVER BRIDGE. OPENING OF THE GREAT STRUCTURE BY RAILWAY

OFFICIALS-A TEST TRAIN. [BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIRUNE.]

LOCKPORT, N. Y., Dec. 20 .- Over ten thouand people had gathered on the banks of the Niagara | the vote being 215 year against 6 mays. River near the Village of Suspension Bridge this morning ong before the first locomotive of the long train of Mogul engines and passsenger cars appeared in sight at the Canadian end of the new cantilever bridge. This cas the formal opening of the bridge which now practicilly unites in one continuous trunk line the New-York Central and Hudson River, the Canada Southern and the Michigan Central railroads. Two palace car special trains ne from the west bringing Chicago guests of the Michigan Central and the other the friends of President Butter, of the New-York Central from New-York arrived before ten o'clock. A number of excursion trians from neighboring cities with two brass bands made the opening peremonies of a lively nature.

At 5 minut a past 12 o'clock the test train of twenty heavy engines and twenty-two loaded platform cars started from the Canadian side stopping twenty minutes every hundred feet to allow a large corps of engineers to take deflections. At exactly 1 o'clock the first engine reached the United States side and set up a shrill whistle in which the others Joined drowning he music of the bands and cheers of the crowd. The engineers and officials expressed themselves as satisfied with the test and with the bridge after the completion of the test. The two palace car trains were run across the now accepted structure. The banquet following was attended at the Mont. Eagle Hotel by over 600 distinguished railroad men and existed guests. Speeches were made by President Ledyard of the Michigan Central, by President Rutter of the Now-York Central, by General Fields of the Bridge Construction Company and by others. They expressed the brightest hopes for the newly linked trunk lines. The special truns left for home at about 5 o'clock. Traffic over the new bridge begins to-morrow morning. heavy engines and twenty-two loaded platform cars over the new bridge begins to-morrow morning

A DISHONEST POSTAL CLERK.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TEIRUNE.] CLEVELAND, Dec. 20.—Charles A. Willard, a railway postal clerk between this city and Indianapolis. was arrested by post office inspectors as he stepped from his train in the Union depot last night on a charge of embezzing money and valuables from the mails. He made a partial confession to Inspector Brown, but before United States Commissioner White this morning declined to make any statement further than that he had been en

to make any statement turther than that he had been engaged in the pilfering business for the past four years.
He was bound over for trial.
Willard is a man of forty-two years of age and prior to
his arrest bore an excellent reputation. He lived on the
west side and has a wife and three children. He was
caught by means of a decoy letter containing a marked
\$2 bill and a marked silk handkerchief addressed to a
small post office in Illinois.

FATAL ACCIDENT TO A SICK MAN.

[BY TELEBRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., Dec. 20 .- A Rogers ville dispatch states that while William Hard, one of the wealthiest and most prominent residents of Hawkins Weathnest and most prominent residents of Hawkins County, was sitting alone in his room, he fell face forward into a bed of hickory coals. He was burned so severely that he died in a few hours. Mr. Hard was just recover-ing from a severe illness, and it is thought be fainted from exhaustion and fell into the fire.

THE JAMES WHENRY PARTY.

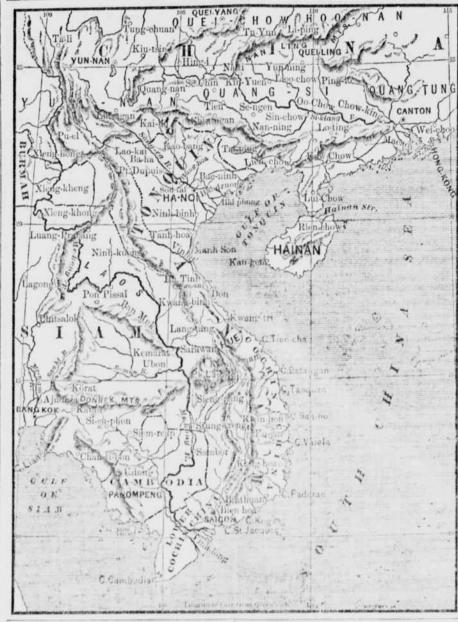
IBY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE. CLEVELAND, Dec. 20,-James McHenry and the gentlemen with him will leave here to-morrow for New-York. They have given up their intended trip to Cincinnati and will depart from New-York after the holi-days for Florid will depart from New-York after the holi-

BILLIARD MATCH AT ST. LOUIS.

Sr. Louis, Dec. 20 .- The billiard match between Catton and Donovan closed late last night in favor of the latter by a score of 800 to 414. THE FRENCH POSITIONS NEAR THE CHINESE FRONTIER.

NEW-YORK, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1883.

The map shows the relative positions of the French and the Black Flags in Tonquin, and the The map shows the relative positions of the French and the Black Flags in Tonquin, and the frontiers of China and Anam. The entire district east of Slam, from Cape Cambodia to the Chinese position, has been for two centuries under the nominal suzerainty of the Imperial Court at Pekin. The French acquired Saigon and Lower Cochin China in 1861, and assumed a protectorate over Cambodia. By the Treaty of 1874, which has never been sanctioned by China, France obtained the right to protect Anam, including Tonquin, in the same way in which it controlled Cambodia. By the treaty concluded at Hue last August this protectorate has become absolute. The French have been in possession of the delta of the Song-ca River, Ha-Not being their most advanced position. The Black Flags and Tonquinese have occupied Sontay (20 miles from Ha-Not), Hung Hoa and other points on the river, and also Bac-Ninh, on the only road by which Chinese troops can advance from the frontier to offer resistance to the Flags and Tonquinese have occupied sontay (20 innes from 113-Xo)). Hung flow and other points on the river, and also Bac-Ninh, on the only road by which Chinese troops can advance from the frontier to offer resistance to the French. Bac-Ninh is sixteen miles from Ha-Noi, is well-fortified, and cannot be reached by the French gunboats. It is garrisoned by Chinese soldiers. The chief object of France is to open the populous Chinese province of Yun-nan to European trade. The Chinese Government are prepared to resort to arms rather than have any foreign Power take possession of their southern land frontier. Hai Dzuong, where a French garrison was unsuccessfully attacked a month ago, by a Chinese army of three thousand men, is between Bac-Ninh and the coast on the northern channel of the river. The French have now advanced upon Sentay and captured the outposts, after meeting with desperate resistance. The citadel is still occupied by the Black Flags.



FIGHTING IN TONQUIN.

A FRENCH VICTORY NEAR SONTAY.

THE PRINCIPAL OUTPOSTS CAPTURED BY ADMIRAL COURBET.

Hong Kong, Dec. 20,-The French forces have captured the principal outposts of Sontay, embracing five strongly fortified villages. The enemy made a stubborn resistance. The French loss was two hundred men and fifteen officers killed and wounded.

Admiral Courbet, who commanded the expedition, had 7,000 men, of whom 4,000 engin the The Chinese still hold the fortress of Sontay, action, the others being held in reserve, Paris, Dec. 20.-The Government has received nofficial advices confirming the report of the capture of the villages ontside of Sout ay,

A dispatch from Hong Kong states that the fight at Sontay occurred on December 14. Two of the outworks were captured and the citadel was surrendered by the French forces.

THE SUPPLEMENTARY CREDIT BULL. In the Senate to-day the supplementary credit bill for 9,000,000 francs for the Tonquin expedition was discussed, and was adopted by a vote of 211 yeas against 7 nays. Subsequently the Tonquin credit bill for 20,000,000 francs was also adopted,

The Figero of yesterday says that it is understood that the Marquis I seng, the Chinese Ambassador, has proposed to France the following as a fresh basis of negotiations for the settlement of the Tonquin question: The delta of the Song-Koi (Red River), together with the city of Sontay, to belong to France; the delta of the Song-Cau River, with Bae-Ninh, to belong to China; the northern and western provinces of Tonquin to be neatral, and China to renounce her suzerainty of the Kingdom of Anam.

Reinforcements, consisting of 6,300 troops, will be sent to Tonquin within the next fortnight.

The Temps reports that at the weekly reception at the foreign ministry to-day the Marquis Teeng and Prime Minister Ferry had a long and friendly conversation. The Temps asserts that the compromise mentioned by the Figure as having been proposed by the Marquis Teeng has not been imparted to the French Government, and the Temps doubts whether such a compromise has been mooted.

THE NEW RING OF ANAM. Saigon, Dec. 20.-According to advices from Hue, dated December 14, Youdue has been proclaimed King of Anam. The natives were greatly excited, and an attack upon the French legation was feared. The firm attitude of M. Champeaux, the French resident, had alone prevented an attack by the natives. One hundred and fifty reinforcements have been sent to flue from Fort Thuanab.

ments have been sent to line from Fort Thuanan. It is considered argently necessary to occupy line with a sufficient force to withstand any attack that may be made upen the French. No resistance, however, is expected on the part of the natives.

Admiral Peyron, Minister of Marine, has received the following telegram from Admiral Courbet, dated, "Before Sontay, December 16:" "The expedition left Hanoi on December 11 and captured Fort Phusa and all the earthworks erected on the banks of the Songkoi (Red River), opposite Sontay. The assault was carried out by the marine infantry and Algerian sharpshooters. The flotilla rendered very efficient assistance. The enemy were very well armed and resisted desperately. The condition and spirits of the French troops are excellent. Toand spirits of the French troops are excellent. Today we commence the attack on Sontay.

THE CROWN PRINCE ENTERTAINED. BENEFICIAL RESULTS EXPECTED FROM HIS VISIT

TO THE POPE. Rome, Dec. 20.-The Crown Prince, King Humbert, Queen Margherita, the Duke of Aosta, Prince Paul of Baden and the members of the Italian Cabinet, except Signor Deprotis, partook of breakfast with Baron de Keudell, the German Ambassador, this morning.

BERLIN, Dec. 20 .- The National Gazette states that at the interview between the Prince and the Pope no allusion was made to the Culterkampf, although it is understood that the Vatican expected to hear something with regard to the intentions of Prassia relative to the church troubles in that country. A correspondent at Rome states that the Prince, at a reception given to the German residents, said that he trusted that his visit to the Pope would have beneficial results in every way.

AN ACCIDENT TO THE CZAR. Berlin, Dec. 20 .- A telegram from St. Petersourgeays that while the Czar was hunting in a sledge the horses of the vehicle shied and the Emperor was thrown out. His Majesty's right shoulder was injured..

NO PLOT AGAINST MR. GLADSTONE'S LIFE. there is no foundation for the rumors of a plot agains

the life of Mr. G'adstore and of the destruction of public tor d ogs by explosives. The precautions that have been taken at Hawarden Castle and elsewhere, the police state, were in consequence of vague threats.

IRISH CRIMES AND TROUBLES. AN AGRARIAN OUTRAGE IN DUBLIN-REPORTED SHOOTING OF AN INFORMER,

Duntin, Dec. 20 .- John Moylan, who recently returned from America, has been shot dead at Clonbar, near Galway. The murder was an agrarian outrage. The assassin confronted Moylan with a gun, and shot him in the chest. Moylan fell, when the murderer again aimed at him. Moylan's wife threw herself upon the prostrate form of her husdescreed her off, threatening to kill her. He then fired at the wounded man while he lay upon the ground, killing him. There is no clew to the murderer. Moylan had just taken possession of a vacant farm.

The friends of Patrick O'Donaell, who was hanged last Monday for murdering Carey, purpose to erect a memorial to him here.

London, Dec. 20.-A dispatch from Galway states that it is reported that during a disturbance in Cong, Bounty Mayo, yesterday evening, Kerrigan, the informer, was shot. | Kerrigan, who is reported to have been shot at Cong, last night, was the informer whose testimony in the Huddy family murder case, in December, 1882, convicted Patrick and Thomas Higgins and Michael Flyan, who were all hanged. He was also an informer in the Joyce murder trial, which resulted in the hanging of Patrick Joyce, Myles Joyce and Patrick Casey at Galway.

EDINBURGH, Dec. 20.—The case of McDermott and

A STEAMER BURNED AT SEA. UNCERTAINTY AS TO THE FATE OF MANY

PASSENGERS. LONDON, Dec. 20,-A part of the crew of the Spanish mail steamer Saint Augustin, bound from Manila for Liverpool, have arrived at Dartmouth. They report that the steamer took fire on Sunday

last in the Bay of Biscay. Eighty-two of the crew and the passengers took to the boats. The first boat reached an English brig. The second returned to the burning vessel. The third boat has not been heard from. The fourth boat contained fourteen persons, who were those who landed at Dartmouth. When the latter left the Saint Augustin, there were thirty people on board. It is hoped that they were rescued, as a steamer was seen to be bearing down toward the burning vessel,

A dispatch from Coruna, Spain, says: A brig has landed there a portion of the crew of the steamer Saint Augustin. This is probably the brig which picked up the survivors who escaped in the first

CANADIAN DUTY ON RAW SUGAR. [BY TELEGRAPH TO THE PRIBUNE.]

Ottawa, Dec. 20.—Sugar refiners are urging the Covernment to reduce the duty on raw sugar lmported for refining purposes, or else to raise the duty on American refined sugars, to enable them to increase the price of their own products. The refiners say that there is no profit in refining at present prices unless they can reduce the cost of the raw material. They are also asking a drawback, equivalent to the duty paid, on the raw material used in the manufacture of refined sugar exported. If this concession is made, Canadian refiners hold that they will be in a position to compete in foreign markets, from which they are now excluded.

MANITOBA DEMANDS HER RIGHTS. DECLARATION ADOPTED BY THE FARMERS UNION-LOUD SECESSION TALK.

WINNIPEG, Manitoba, Dec. 20.-The Manitoba and Northwestern Farmers' Union adopted a formal declaration of rights to-day, after a long discussion. demands for the Local Government the right to charter a railway in Manitoba; to have absolute control of public hands, including school lands; and to receive compensation fer lands sold that are used for Federal purposes; that the duty on agricultural implements and building materials be re-moved, and the customs tariff on articles of daily consumption greatly modified; declares that it is the duty of the Provincial Government to make such amendments to London, Dec. 20.—The police declare that the municipal act as shall empower municipal connectis to build elevators, grain warehouses and mills and to

appoint grain inspectors; that this convention is unimously of the opinion that the Hudson Bay Railroa should be constructed with the least possible delay.

A motion was introduced to appoint delegates to the Dominion Government to submitthe demands of the Province. minion Government to submitthe demands of the Province. The secession element then showed itself. Mr. Stewart moved to amend "that a humble petition, in secondance with the declaration of rights agreed to at the convention, be presented to Her Majesty the Queen and the Privy Council, with a view of obtaining a repeal of the British North American act and forming a new confederacy of the Northwest provinces and British Columbia." After debate, the original proposition prevailed; but in the speeches there was much talk of secession, and the formation of a confederation reaching from Lake Superior to to the Pacific Ocean. This was applicated.

BERNHARDT AND COLOMBIER.

Paris, Dec. 20.—The extraordinary episode in the apartments of Mile. Marie Colombier on Tuesday afternoon continues to be a subject of animated gossip. It is now known that Sarah Bernbardt, upon starting out to avenge the wrongs inflicted by Mile. Colombier, armed herself with a dagger, which she carried in her left hand, while her right hand wielded the stinging whip. Mile. Colombier made no attempt at defence, but sought immediate escape by the back stairs; not, however, until her assailant had inflicted several painful blows across her face. Bernhardt, presenting the whip to the conclerge on leaving the house, remarked that it had been given to her by the distinguished Marshal Carrobert; but that, as it had been laid across the visage of such an odious person as Marie Colombier, she disdained to give it house-room onger. During the affray which occurred in the lower part of the house, one of Sarah Bernhardt's friends said if Mile. Colombier had any one willing to defend her in any particular, he was ready to fight him. Another friend tore Bernhardt's picture from the wall and executed a frantic dance upon it, wildly asserting that it had been descerated by propinquity to Colombier's pertrait. The appearance of Mme. Bernhardt at the theatre to take part in the relearsal of the new play "Nana Sahib," was the occasion of great comment. Her rifends gave many evidences of their sympathy with her, and the coolness of her demeanor after the real drama in which she played the part of leading lady was a theme of considerable applause. The general opinion now is that the affair will have its sequel in the law courts, and as a consequence speculation is basy as to what other developments will grow out of the enlivenment.

M. Jehan Sondan, on behalf of Mile. Colombier, challenced M. Richepin, one of Mme. Bernhardt's friends, to fight a duck. Both these gentlemen were present during the fraces. M. Richepin declined the challenge. M. Sondan has consequently published the following: "I have found Richepin a coward in the presence of a woman, and I have found him a coward with a man. This is logical." her in any particular, he was ready to fight him

INTERESTS IN PANAMA. BY CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICAN CABLE, 1

Panama, Dec. 20, via Galveston.—Mr. Yribe the Panama Railway, and merchants and others anticipate improved management and fewer accidents.

The Panama Canal works are being pushed forward with energy under the French engineer, Mr. Dingle.

CHEERING FOR OBERDANK.

ROME, Dec. 20 .- During the sitting of the Chamber of Deputies to-day two men in the gallery and throwing copies of Oberdank's will into the body of chamber. They were arrested. [Oberdank deserted from the Austrian Army and joined, in Trieste, a secret society. Oberdank and two Italian accomplices were discovered filling shells and bombs with nitro-glycerine at an up in Ronchi. It was believed that their plot was at an 1m in Rouchl. It was believed that their plot was to blow up the theatre at Trieste, at which were present the Emperor Francis Joseph and his family and Admiral Nicholson and other American naval officers. Oberlank confessed that he drew lots in the society to determine which member should assassinate the Emperor, and the lot having fallen to him he intended to throw a bomb into the garden of Miramar Castle to accomplish the deed. He was tried, convicted and hanged on December 29, 1882. j

TOPICS IN THE DOMINION.

Ottawa, Dec. 20.—Sir Charles Tupper has med the duties of Minister of Railways and Canals. Kingston, Dec. 20 .- At a meeting of the Kingston Presbytery to-day the Rev. Mr. Chambers charged the Rev. Mr. Gallagher with having married a man to his deceased wife's sister, and gave notice that he would move against Mr. Gallagher for violation of the rules of Church discipline.

Toronto, Dec. 20, .- In Chamber to-day an rder was made en motion declaring the Hon. Adam ooks, late Minister of Education for Ontario, a lunatic. The doctor's athlavit stated that he had only two years to live, at the outside.

London, Dec. 20 .- A meeting was held last evening in Exeter Hall, at which Lord Lorne delivered a ure upon Canada. Sir Alexander Galt introduced

LONDON, Out., December 20.—George E. Evans, a book keeper, was arrested to-day by local and Chicago detectives, charged with obtaining \$6,000 from Charles Var Doren, of New-York, one of the heirs of the Springer estate, at Wilmington, Del., which is valued at \$20,000,000, by the use of a forged certificate of heir-ship. The prisoner was held for extradition.

MONTREAL, Dec. 20-The plea of the New York Graphic Newspaper Company was lodged in court to-day in answer to the winding-up order. It denies all the allegations made in the petition. The directors assert that the proceedings are the result of a conspiracy to wreck the

LAND TRAUDS IN DAKOTA.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] LAMOUR, Dakota, Dec. 20-Detectives representing the Interior Department of the Government and the local land officers are this week scouring the Territory there charged with the dynamite outrages in Glasgow, was continued here to-day. The Lord Advocate in closing the case for the Crown, traced the connection of the prisoners with the purchase of acids, which were used to manufacture explosives, and urged upon the jury that the evidence had proved that they conspired to bring about the explosions with which they are charged. Counsel then addressed the jury in behalf of seven of the prisoners. to ferret out the more flagrant cases of land grabbing and homestead act from which crops are taken year after year, but which contain no actual dwelling and are operated in large parcets by speculators. In some case the title is held by one individual to thousands of acres that have been taken up in the first place by mercenary adventurers. In other Instances homesteads are farmed in the same wholesale manner. There is a belief here that the Homestead Act will be repealed and the Transcalary Act amended. Tree-claim Act amended.

SUICIDE TO ESCAPE TORTURE.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Douglas Mountain, Col., Dec. 20 .- Much excitement is caused by the strange suicide of John En erson, a miner, whose body was found partially covered with dict, having the throat cut and gashed in a horrible manner. Emerson had worked a tunnel by himself, and the earth over him had evidently caved in. Some heavy rocks fell on his feet and legs, breaking his right ankle He had doubtless taken out his knife and endeavored to cut himself loose, as his boot was slit up and down; but he could not extricate his foot. After long and helpless waiting, and vain endeavors to get out of the durft, he evidently cut his own throat, preferring not to die by inches in his helpless entanglement.

FIRE DAMP STOPS MINING.

WILKESBARRE, Dec. 20.-The air course being cut off in the Pine Ridge Colliery by the recent caving in, has forced an accumulation of fire damp in the mine to such an extent that it is impracticable for miners to venture more than a few yards from the foot of the shaft into the mine. It is impossible to trace the cave-in or to ascertain the cause of the foul air. Four hun-dred men are thrown out of employment.

ANTHRACITE COAL TONNAGE.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 20 .- The anthracite coal tonnage of all the carrying companies for the cleven months of 1883, ending November 30, was 29,659,886 tons, an increase of 3,139,229 tons, as compared with the same period last year. The stock of coal on hand at tide-water shipping points, November 30, was 696,380 tons.

FUNERAL OF JAMES W. BOSLER.

Carlisle, Penn., Dec. 20.—The funeral of the late James W. Boster took place from his residence here this afternoon. The burial was in Ashland Cemetery. Among the persons present were ex-Senator Blaine, H. J. Ramsdell, Clinton Wheeler and Dr. D. W. Bliss.

ATLANTIC CITY HEALTHFUL.

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., Dec. 20,-The report oublished in Philadelphia and New-York of epidemic searlet fover here is without foundation. The place is healthful, and the Board of Health and local physicians are amazed at the publication of reports to the contrary. There is no scariet fover in the city.

PRICE THREE CENTS. H. O. THOMPSON'S DEVICES.

MORE EXTRAORDINARY UNBALANCED BIDS.

HOW CITY MONEY IS THROWN AWAY-MR. ROOSE-VELT ON THE NECESSITY OF A LECISLATIVE INQUIRY-COURT OF APPEALS DECISIONS.

The details of three more extraordinary unbal-

anced bid contracts in the Public Works Department are given to-day. It is shown that in one contract Mr. Thompson has classed the tearingdown of an old stone wall as "rock excavation," and the city has been made to pay an exorbitant price for the work. On this contract the city already lost \$59,306, because has the false estimate and unbalanced bid. It is shown that in total disregard of the interests of the city Mr. Thompson has increased the annual pay of a relative over 400 per cent-making his pay equal to that of the Mayor. Assemblyman Roosevelt says that if elected Speaker he will insist on a thorough, exhaustive and impartial investigation of the Department of Public Works and of other branches of the city government. The Court of Appeals has rendered several decisions recently that bear upon the disclosures concerning unbalanced bids and other irregularities.

PROFITING AT THE EXPENSE OF THE CITY. A CONTRACTOR WHO IS PAID AN EXORBITANT PRICE FOR TEARING DOWN A STONE WALL-PROSPER-

ITY OF THE SMITH FAMILY. On one unbalanced bid contract, the particulars of which have already been printed in THE TRIB-UNE, it was shown that James W. O'Grady was paid 700 per cent more than the amount of his bid. In that case he was paid \$50 a cubic yard for excavating rock while the fair value of the work was not more than \$3 a cubic yard. Mr. O'Grady was equally fortunate in a contract he obtained from Commissioner Thompson on June 26, 1882, for regulating and grading Morningside-ave. from Onehundred-and-tenth-st, to Tenth-ave. The amount of Mr. O'Grady's bid on this contract was \$60,599. So far he has carned \$103,880, and he is by no means through with his contract. MR. O'GRADY'S WONDERFUL FORESIGHT.

The estimates on this contract were as usual at The estimate on which bids were invited called for 2,330 cubic yards of earth excavation. On this item Mr. O'Grady bid an excessive price, 229 per cent greater than that of two other bidders, But his wisdom was manifest when the returns came in, as already he has taken out 11,458 cubic yards of earth, or about 400 per cent more than the estimate. On rock he also bid a good price and the return also exceeds the estimate. But in this case the city has been paying him for work classed as "rock excavation" which was a different and less costly kind of work. A good deal of the rock excavation on this contract is nothing more than tearing down an old stone wall-a very different thing from excavating rack under the surface of the ground; and yet Mr. O'Grady is getting the same rate of pay for both. This estimate on this contract called for 31,100 cubic yards of filling. On this item Mr. O'Grady bid a low price and of course there was only about one-third of the quantity of filling called for actually supplied. For dry stone masonry Mr. O'Grady bid a large price, and here again his sagacity was evident from the fact that more than twice as much was required as the estimate called for. The bids of five different contractors for the work of regulating and grading under

this contract were as follows:				
	Excavating Earth per cubic yard,	Exeavating Rock per cubic yard.	Filling per cubic yard.	Dry Stone Masoury per cublo
J. Everard. John McKim. J. B. Devlin. B. Malon. J. W. G'Grady.	\$ 30 40 24 25 79	\$1.95 1.79 1.35 1.80 1.93	\$ 85 73 58 90 11	\$2 15 2 45 4 10 1 50 3 97

Mr. Mahon's total bid, as made out by the estimated quantities needed, was only \$3,000 more than the bid of O'Grady; but if Mahon had secured the contract at his prices the city would already have saved \$59,306. The estimated quantities and the returns already in vary as follows:

Cubio yarda
or earth
excavation
cubic yards
cubic yards
excavation
cubic yards
of
filling.
Cubic yards
of
filling.
Cubic yards
of
filling.
The yards
of dry stone
masoury.
Total of bid
on all items. 2,330 8,020 31,000 9,900 \$60,509 11,458 9,062 12,000 19,554 . \$ 79 \$1 93 \$ 11 \$3 97 | Price.

MR. THOMPSON'S ATTEMPT AT EXPLANATION. Controller Grant's attention was attracted to this contract by the first voucher that came before him for payment. He immediately requested Mr. Thompson to explain the extraordinary variation between the estimate and the return. Mr. Thompson said that when the contract was advertised it was stated that if the Park Départment did not do certain work on the line of the avenue that 3,400 yards less of filling and 3,400 yards more of dry stone masoary would be required; and that as the Park Department did not do the work, that made a difference in the estimate and return; further than that he had no excuse to offer other than the difficulty of making a correct estimate.

As Mr. Thompson's explanation accounted for only a small part of the extraordinary difference between the estimate and return on this contract, and there was apparent knowledge beforehand on the part of the contractor that this would be the case, the Controller declined to pay the voucher without further examination. He saw the need of organizing the auditing bureau so as to be able to tell from his own inspectors and engineer whether or not the city was being swindled. In this way he ascertained that under the O'Grady contract tearing down a stone wall was reckoned as rock excavation, and so certified by Commissioner Thompson and paid for by the city. The examination is still in progress.

OTHER INSTANCES OF IRREGULARITY. On a small contract given out by Mr. Thorapson for receiving basins in Seventy-third-st., there was paid 53 per cent more than the total bid of the contractor, Edward Bradburn. In this case the estimate called for 30 cubic yards of rock excavation. But the returns showed that 200 yards were taken out, for which \$3 a cubic yard was paid.

On another small contract given to Thomas Murray for curbing and flagging on One-hundred-andthirteenth-st., 42 per cent more was paid than the amount of the bid. The estimate in this case called for 3,500 feet of flagging, while 6,930 were paid for by the city. How any difference could exist in the return and estimate for flagging is difficult to understand, as it is a mere matter of correct measurement. HOW MR. THOMPSON CARES FOR THE SMITH FAMILY.

But the estimate and return on Mr. Murray's contract were both the work of W. V. Smith, a surveyor who is in receipt of a large income from Mr. Thompson's department. He is the same surveyor who laid a street out five feet from the correct line. The Smith family are doing well in the Public Works Department. They are in receipt of handsome incomes. If not all, at least some, of them are known to be near relatives of Commissioner Thompson. Whenever the interests of the city conflict with the personal interests of Mr. Thompson, or of his kinsmen or personal favorites, the city must suffer. A fair illustration of this is shown in connection with the appointment of his cousin, Douglas Smith, to a place of profit. In the early part of 1881 Mr. Smith was employed as an architect and draughtsman at a salary of \$166 a month, which was paid out of the Croton Water Main Fund. But the improvements in the markets and the changes in other buildings gave Mr. Thompson a chance to make a much better place for his cousin. This young man resigned his place as architect on the Croton water mains, and was appointed to take